

# Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Funding



**Support the House budget proposal for VPK which allocates \$402.3 million to preserve the high-quality programs Florida voters envisioned.**

**This would reduce the VPK per child spending by 1% in alignment with FEFP reductions of .74% providing equity in reductions for education programs while still providing children with a high-quality educational foundation, ensuring future academic success.**

## Current Proposed Funding Allocations

As of March 26th, the House and Senate PreK-12 Appropriation committees have released their anticipated reductions to the VPK Program. Below is a chart that represents the cuts in state general revenue and the impact on the program.

| <u>House PreK-12 Appropriations Recommendations</u>                            | <u>Senate PreK-12 Appropriations Recommendations</u>  |
|--|---|
| <b>Total VPK Budget:</b> \$402,321,505   | <b>Total VPK Budget:</b> \$369,628,863  |
| <b>Base Student Allocation:</b> School Year \$2549 and Summer \$2,168          | <b>Base Student Allocation:</b> School Year and Summer \$2,320  |
| <b>Coalition Administrative Spending:</b> 4.5% (Current 4.85%)                 | <b>Coalition Administrative Spending:</b> 4.5% (Current 4.85%)  |
| <b>Teacher to Student Ratio:</b> Maintains current ratio of 1 to 1:10 or 2:18. | <b>Teacher to Student Ratio:</b> 1 to 12 and an assistant for any class up to 20; with the 21 <sup>st</sup> student the secondary instructor must have a CDA credential for a total class size of 24 (Current 1:10/2:18). |

*Senate position represents a \$255 dollar cut per child for a reduction of nearly 10%*

## Success in VPK

- Constitutionally mandated prekindergarten program, **free to every four year old in Florida.**
- **Children that participate in the VPK program consistently perform better** on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener than children that did not participate in VPK.
- Consists of quality indicators including **developmentally appropriate curriculum, teacher credentials and ratios.**
- Program has served approximately **654,000 children since it began in 2005** and is the second largest prekindergarten program in the nation.
- In 2009-2010, it is estimated that the program will serve approximately **70% of all four year olds in Florida.** The total projected to be served is 160,555.
- Program growth is estimated to continue. Current estimates anticipate the program to serve **75% of all four year olds by 2010-2011.**